

**MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING
HELD FOR PROPOSED EXPANSION OF
SUGARCANE CRUSHING FROM 4800 TCD TO 8000 TCD,
CO-GENERATION FROM 22 MW TO 45 MW
AND
DISTILLERY FROM 30 KLPD TO 95 KLPD
IN RESPECT OF
M/S. SAR SENAPATI SANTAJI GHORPADE SUGAR FACTORY
LTD.,
AT BELEWADI-KALAMMA, TAL: KAGAL, DIST: KOLHAPUR
(MAHARASHATRA STATE)**

Public hearing for the proposed expansion of sugarcane crushing from 4800 to 8000 TCD, co-generation from 22 MW to 45 MW and distillery from 30 KLPD to 95 KLPD in respect of M/s. Sar Senapati Santaji Ghorpade Sugar Factory Ltd. was held on 23-08-2017 at 11.30 P.M. at the factory site of M/s. Sar Senapati Santaji Ghorpade Sugar Factory Ltd., Kagal, At Belewadi-Kalamma, Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur.

Following panel members were present for the public hearing:-

1. Shri. Sanjay Shinde, - Chairman
Additional District Magistrate, Kolhapur.
(Representative of District Collector, Kolhapur)
2. Shri. Dilip Khedkar, - Member
Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Kolhapur.
(Representative of Maharashtra Pollution
Control Board)
3. Shri R. S. Kamat, - Convener
I/c. Sub Regional Officer, MPC Board,
Kolhapur.

First of all, the convener of the environmental public hearing welcome to the all participants and with the permission of Chairman started the public

hearing. He informed that this proposed expansion project comes under Schedule 'A' of the the Notification of Ministry of the Environment and Forest, Government of India, New Delhi dated 14.09.2006, amended on 01.12.2009, hence, Environmental Public Hearing is mandatory for this project. The factory management has submitted proposal to M.P.C. Board for expansion of existing plant. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change, New Delhi has granted TOR to the project proponent and to prepare Environment Impact Assessment Report. Thereafter, the project proponent has prepared Environmental Impact Assessment report [EIA] and submitted it to the Government. The District Collector, Kolhapur has allowed to conduct the public hearing on 23-08-2017 for which M.P.C. Board has published a notice in daily news papers i.e. in Marathi newspaper "Dainik Pudhari" on 21-07-2017 and in English newspaper "The Times of India" on 22-07-2017. And Corrigendum was published on 15-08-2017 in Dainik Pudhari and on 17-08-2017 in The Times of India. The copies of Environmental Impact Assessment report [EIA] report along with executive summary report in English and Marathi were made available for study of public at the offices of District Collector, Kolhapur, District Industries Center, Kolhapur, Zilla Parishad Office, Kolhapur, Environment Department, Govt. Of Maharashtra, Mumbai, Head Office of M.P.C. Board, Mumbai, Regional Office, MPC Board, Kolhapur, Tahsil Office, Kagal, Panchayat Samiti Office, Kagal, Gram Panchayat Belewadi-Kalamma, Gram Panchayat Vadgaon, Gram Panchayat Allahabad, Gram Panchayat Hasur Khurd, Gram Panchayat Kapashi, and Gram Panchayat, Dhamane for public study purpose and requested the public to submit their complaints, objections, suggestions etc. The convener informed that public can raise their questions, objections, instructions etc. during the public hearing orally or in writing during this public hearing which will be included/ incorporated in the minutes of the meeting. M.P.C. Board has received four objections before the public hearing and two support /suggestion letters before the public hearing and one objection/suggestion letter during the hearing of the proposed project. He said the purpose of this public hearing is

to inform the public about the proposed project, its impact on the environment, the precautionary measures for control of pollution to be taken and to record their comments, complaints, instructions etc. in the minutes and the minutes will be submitted to MOEF for further necessary action. He further requested Hon'ble Chairman to instruct factory management to give explanation to the comments, questions raised by the public. This committee will record objections, questions of the public from environmental point of view only and this committee has no authority to give permission to the said project. Thereafter, he has requested to the project proponent to give detailed presentation regarding proposed project.

Thereafter, Shri Nilesh Deshmukh, Technical Consultant of the proposed project started presentation with the help of slide show. The said presentation includes Environmental Impact Assessment report [EIA] and necessity of the public hearing, introduction and details of the project, satellite images taken from google earth, plan of the project, division of land, distillery process, sugar production, study of present environmental status, local environmental details of surrounding area, AAQM, biotic environment, social economic environment, local plants, environment management plan, air pollution control management, impact on water quality and measures taken, MSW and hazardous waste management, green belt development / tree plantation, workers security and health, environment management cost and benefits of the proposed project etc.

After completing above presentation, the Hon'ble Chairman addressed to all people to start presenting their questions or objections or any suggestions with respect to this proposed project. Accordingly, following discussion / questions-answers started:-

Q.1. Shri Pratap Mane, Kagal, Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur.

From the presentation, it is observed that the proposed project is environmental friendly and ideal for other industries in the country to take note

of it. There is zero discharge system for which modern technology is used. Other distilleries do not burn spent wash but in this distillery spent wash burnt in the boiler. Hence, it does not cause environmental pollution. The project is beneficial to the farmers and hence, all farmers are supporting the project. Due to expansion, farmers will get good rate for their sugarcane and there will be development in this area. I congratulate to this project because it is going to use 70% water present in the sugarcane without taking water from Chikotra river/dam. Not a single drop of molasses will be generated due to burning of spent wash. There are 7500 trees of mango and chikoo planted in this premises and there is provision of 4000 additional tree plantation. There is 1000 direct employment and 1500 indirect employment in this area due to this industry. And hence, such type of projects should started in the village areas and the government should take initiative for it. I request that permission should be given to this proposed project. People from all countries shall visit to this project. I support the project.

Q.2. Shri Umesh Shamrao Desai, Jan Andolan Kruti Samiti of Chikotra Basin, At Senapati Kapashi, Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur.

We do not have any objection to this expansion project. But water from Chikotra river is required for this project. We have submitted proposal to the District Collector, Kolhapur for diversion of this water which is still pending. I request the Hon'ble Chairaman to give NOC to the said proposal.

Q.3. Shri Parashram Tavare, At Senapati Kapashi, Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur.

I congratulate the factory management / team to establish project on such a hilly area. I am not against any industry but it should comply with all the parameters/terms and conditions stipulated by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board in respect of Air, Water and other parameters. I have submitted written representation in which I have mentioned 1 to 42 points on which explanation should be given. I appeal to the government and all people

present for the public hearing to solve the question of water supply for the purposes like drinking, agriculture and food for the cattles in this area. Please take note of my 42 points. Thereafter, Shri Tavare submitted his written representation of 42 points to the environmental public hearing committee.

Q.4. Shri Shivanand Mali, Village Mhakave, Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur.

I congratulate the factory management and technical department for presenting information in simple language. This factory is located in States border area. Earlier the factory had less production capacity. Also the sugar cane crop generation in Kagal taluka is in huge quantity. That's why as per record of last year, 45000 MT of sugar cane was supplied to sugar factories located in Karnataka State. If this was crushed in Kagal taluka all the revenue from taxes could be gone into different funds including Chief Minister Fund. Hence, permission to the proposed project should be given immediately and increase the revenue of the State. If the proposed project is started, the sugar cane crop can be crushed within two and half months instead of four months and farmers can grow other crops in this time which will help them to earn some extra income. I request to give permission to the propped project.

Q.5. Shri Hindurao Desai, Deputy Chairman of Panchayat Samiti at Ajara, Tal: Ajara, Dist: Kolhapur.

I think this is the first industry to conduct the public hearing in such a large scale but other industries have conducted the public hearing where less response of public is there. We can see that there is not any smell nuisance even if we are sitting near the factory. People support the proposed project, hence permission should be given for the same.

Q.6. Shri Shashikant Khot, At Kapashi, Tal: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur.

I have seen the presentation. We all gathered here support the proposed project by raising our hands and hence, it should be started and requested to the present people who were agree for the project shall raise their hands in support of the proposed project.

Q.7. Shri Husan Mushrif, MLA of Kagal taluka, Dist: Kolhapur.

I am here to reply some questions raised during the public hearing. In this area there is less monsoon from last two to three years and hence, there is a scarcity of water. I have been working as MLA of this taluka from last 20 years. Since, construction of Chikotra dam, it was filled to its capacity only twice. We have taken hard efforts to make it full. There is another project i.e. Naganwadi project for which land is not yet acquired. Hence, I request them who have raised question about the water scarcity to help in our efforts to acquire the land to complete these projects. Let us come together, without our efforts the projects will not complete. We had made agitation regarding this in State Assembly. After that, the Irrigation and Revenue Minister had convened a meeting and we discussed about these two projects. As per new law of land acquisition, people are ready to give their lands if they get four times compensation of the market price. If the Chief Minister sanctions this package, the Naganwadi project will be constructed and there will be no problem of water in Chikotra Basin. In addition, work of Ambehol water project which is 6 kms away from Belewadi Kalamma is going on and it is planned to store water in this project from next year. Presently we lift water from river Vedganga. For the factory we do not lift water, but water is taken for workers and sugarcane labours only at 10 HP whenever water is supplied as per schedule. Even though the factory is running. People surprise how the factory running without water. He requested the technical consultant to reply on the technical questions raised by the public.

Shri Dilip Khedkar, Member, has requested to the project proponent to answer the questions raised by the public related to environmental issues with respect to this proposed project.

Ans. :-

Shri Deepak Desai replied that he is giving explanations about 1 to 42 points raised by Shri Tavare. He informed that, all the information related to questions/points 1 to 42 is already incorporated in the Environmental Impact Assessment report [EIA] Report in answers to all these 42 questions of Shri

Tavare in their Environment Impact Assessment Report in simple and clear cut language and also its presentation has already been submitted to Shri Manoj Singh, Joint Director of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. Of India, New Delhi. The molasses generated by crushing sugar cane of 8500 MT will be utilized by the factory itself. There is no need to bring molasses from outside. The ash generated after burning of spent wash will be used as manure. It will not dispersed in the air. This ash is sold at Rs. 5 to 10 per kg. It is a matter of regret that India imports potash at Rs. 28000 per ton and we sale it for for Rs. 4 per ton. Out spent wash contains potash and we give it to the farmers nearly free of cost. We are taking water from river Chikotra as per permission of the government and the schedule of water is complied by us. We have guarantee of molasses supply. We have zero spent generation. It should be noted that the information related all the 42 points are already incorporated in our report.

Shri Pratap Mane said that there are jaggery and jaggery powder producing units in this area, and questioned whether these units needs permission from Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and whether environmental public hearing is necessary for these units.


Shri Khedkar, Member, replied that jaggery industry does not need public hearing but they must obtain consent from Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. He also requested that public should ask questions from the point of view of the environment and local questions are not considered by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. Of India, New Delhi while granting permission to the proposed project.

The technical consultant informed that a written representation has been received from Shri Madhubabu, Rural Environmental Education and Health Awareness Society and Shri Madhubabu has mentioned that the project is satisfactory and he is in favour of the proposed expansion.

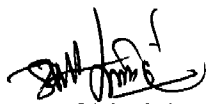
After above discussion, Hon'ble Chairman of the public hearing committee informed that the technical consultant has presented information about the proposed project and after that proper opportunity has been given to people to raise their questions. People have participated and raised their questions peacefully. This committee has no right to give permission to the project. The purpose of this committee is to conduct public hearing and records opinions of the people about the environmental related issues only and thereafter submits the Minutes of the public hearing to Central Government through State Government. Thereafter Chairman has thanked all participants for their cooperation in conducting the public hearing peacefully and concluded the meeting.

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur office has received 4 written objections before hearing regarding availability of EIA report, corrections in the published notice, translation of EIA into Marathi with page numbers and information related court cases of the industry. And 2 nos of support /suggestion letters received before hearing regarding not to dispose the generated effluent from expansion project into Chikotra River and made such arrangements etc. And one specific objection of 1 to 42 points received during the hearing for which project proponent informed that they incorporated all the related information of these 42 points in their EIA report. Copies of all the above letters are enclosed along with these minutes.

Further, all the 7 copies of objections/suggestions/support letters are communicated to the project proponent by this office letter on 4.9.2017, for further necessary action. The copy of the letter communicated to the project proponent is also enclosed along with these minutes.


(R. S. Kamat)
I/c. Sub Regional Officer,
MPC Board, Kolhapur
Convenor


(Dilip Khedkar)
Regional Officer
MPC Board, Kolhapur
Member


(Sanjay Shinde)
Additional District Magistrate
Kolhapur
Chairman